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INDIA AMONG COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST HEAT WAVE EXPOSURE

India and Brazil had the biggest absolute increase in heat-related mortality between 2018 and 2019, according a new Lancet report

CODE RED FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

In addition to direct impacts on health, high temperatures can also affect people's ability to work, says Lancet's 2021 report, marked 'Code Red for a Healthy Future'. Half of the total work hours lost globally occurred in the agricultural sector, the report noted. Pakistan, Bangladesh and India had the greatest losses, aggregating three times the world average, it added

STEEP RISE IN EXTREME DROUGHT EVENTS

- In 2020, up to 19% of the global land surface was affected by extreme drought in any given month. "Millions of farmers and construction workers could have lost income because on some days it's just too hot for them to work," said Prof Anthony Costello, Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown | P9

295 bn hrs

OF POTENTIAL WORK LOST ACROSS THE WORLD IN 2020 DUE TO HEAT EXPOSURE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Travellers have to be fully vaccinated, RT-PCR not mandatory on arrival

EASE OF ACCESS FOR FLIERS FROM 11 COUNTRIES

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

IN fresh guidelines for international arrivals, India eased the screening process for countries with which it has reciprocal recognition of vaccination certificates.

The new norms kick in from October 25 and supersede all previous advisories.

Fully vaccinated passengers from 11 countries with which India has a mutual recognition deal will not be required to undergo RT-PCR tests on arrival. All others will have to take that test on arrival.

The 11 nations are France, the UK, Germany, Nepal, Belarus, Lebanon, Armenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Hungary and Serbia. Travellers from these countries, if fully vaccinated (at least 15 days before the day of travel), will be allowed to leave the airport and self-monitor their health for 14 days after arrival. However, before boarding, they will need to upload a negative RT-PCR test report and vaccination certificates on Air Suvidha portal.

Each of them will also have to submit a declaration on the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise.

Those partially or not vaccinated from the 11 countries will need to submit themselves for Covid test at the port of arrival and undergo home quarantine for seven days. They need to take a re-test on the eighth day of arrival, and if the result is negative, self-monitor their health for next seven days.

These measures will apply to all passengers coming from the rest of the world irrespective of their vaccination status, as India does not have a reciprocal arrangement with them.

NATIONWIDE	OCT 19	OCT 20
Fresh cases	13,058	14,623
Recoveries	19,470	19,446
Deaths	164	197

KARNATAKA	OCT 19	OCT 20
Fresh cases	349	462
Recoveries	399	479
Deaths	14	9

FACEBOOK FINED $69.4 MN

Britain's competition watchdog has fined Facebook 50.5 mn pounds ($69.4 mn) for violating rules during the UK investigation into the firm's purchase of Giphy | PTI

Aryan moves HC after special court denies bail

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

A file picture of Aryan Khan being taken to jail after being arrested by NCB | PTI

A special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court on Wednesday refused bail to Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and two other accused in the cruise ship drugs case. The court denied bail to the 23-year-old and his friend Arbaaz Merchant and fashion model Munmun Dhamecha, observing that his WhatsApp chats revealed he was indulging in "illicit drug activities on a regular basis". The court also said there was a mention of "bulk quantity and hard drugs" in his WhatsApp chats, showing that Khan was in contact with drug dealers. "There is prima facie material showing that accused No 1 was in contact with persons dealing in prohibited narcotic substances," the order said.

After his bail plea was rejected, Aryan moved the Bombay High Court. The matter is likely to be mentioned before Justice N W Sambre on Thursday.

Rejecting bail, the court said the evidence on record shows the accused persons are part of a larger network.

SC raps UP for dragging feet on Lakhimpur

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

HAULING up the UP Police for not recording statements of vulnerable witnesses in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled it up for dilly-dallying and delaying the filing of the status report in the probe. Eight persons, including four farmers, were killed in the violence on October 3.

"We think you are dragging your feet. Please dispel that impression," observed a bench led by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana. The remarks came while perusing the UP government's status report that was filed in a sealed cover just before the hearing. "We had expected it (report) yesterday and waited for it till late night," the CJI told UP's counsel, adding they hadn't instructed filing it in a sealed cover.

In the past, the court faced had criticism for the sealed cover procedure in sensitive cases like the Rafale scam.

During the hearing, the bench asked as to why the police had recorded statements of only four out of 44 witnesses under Section 164 of the CrPC. "This statement (164 CrPC) has more evidentiary value; why haven't you recorded them? Statement before police will not lead anywhere," Justice Suryakant said.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who also represented UP, claimed the probe into the killing of farmers was still on and the process to record statements is ongoing. He said the police had recorded two FIRs — one related to the murder case allegedly involving the son of a Union minister after SUVs ploughed into farmers in the village, and the other in which the crowd lynched and killed those who were in the cars.

Salve said 10 people have been arrested in connection with the farmers' killing, of which four are still in police custody. Saying it was only concerned with the attack on farmers, the bench asked whether the accused were taken into police custody. The counsel said prior to being sent to jail, the six accused were in police custody.

Witness protection

The bench told Salve to protect vulnerable witnesses. "You are in a better position to ascertain who needs protection. Record their statements and give them protection," Salve said he will make sure the UP govt draws up a witness protection plan and will share the details on October 26, the next date of hearing

A file picture of a burnt jeep at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh

Stranded tourists being evacuated from the landslide-affected area of Khairna in Nainital on Wednesday | PTI

Uttarakhand toll at 55, rescue operations pick up speed

VINEET UPADHYAY @Dehradun

WITH weather conditions improving in Uttarakhand, the magnitude of the calamity became clearer on Wednesday as the toll due to rain-related incidents touched 55. The figure is likely to go up as five people are still missing and some of the 17 injured are in critical condition. Sources said some of the missing could be buried under the debris of houses that were levelled by landslides.

The torrential rains that battered the hilly state for the past few days have left roads blocked with boulders and villages without electricity.

Out of four the shrines of the Char Dham Yatra – Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri – the route to Badrinath remains closed due to landslide.

On Wednesday, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami toured the rain-hit areas of the Kumaon region, instructing officials to prepare an estimate of the damage. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to conduct an aerial survey on Thursday.

With rains abating, rescue efforts have picked up speed. Apart from the National Disaster Response Force, Indian Army and Indian Air Force, the State Disaster Response Force, state police and local administration are carrying out the rescue and relief operations.

The National Disaster Response Force said it has rescued over 1,300 people from flood-affected areas of the state. The federal force has pressed into service 17 rescue teams in the state. P10

4 from K'taka yet to be traced

Bengaluru: As many as 96 people from Karnataka are said to be stranded in flood-hit Uttarakhand, of whom three are from Bengaluru. The authorities in Uttarakhand and Karnataka have been unable to establish contact with the three. Karnataka officials have been told that they are safe in Badrinath. But none from the government has been able to contact them, because of poor communication network. Another person is an SSB jawan and the SSB control room has been informed about him. The jawan, who was on leave, was on a personal visit. P7

Gangtok cut off as torrential rain pounds Sikkim

Kolkata: Heavy rains pounded the tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim and the tea growing region of North Bengal, causing landslides that cut off National Highway-10, the main road linking Gangtok with the rest of the country. Thousands of tourists, who thronged the hills during the Durga Puja season, got stranded because of torrential downpour in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts

Rain helps Karnataka make up Cauvery water shortfall to Tamil Nadu

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

THE heavy rainfall in catchment areas of Kabini and Cauvery river basins has helped Karnataka make up a shortfall of 25.84 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu as mandated by the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee.

Just before the heavy rains started this month, Karnataka was facing a difficult water position as the Kabini and KRS reservoirs had not received sufficient inflows. The committee had ordered the state to release the backlog and ensure that 14 tmcft of water was available at the Biligundlu measuring point before October 30.

With the heavy downpour in Kodagu inflows increased to 14,000 cusecs for about a week taking the KRS dam level from 112 tmcft to 120 tmcft. At the Kabini reservoir, too, the inflows increased to 7,000 cusecs and the authorities for a week released 6,000 cusecs every day.

In August, the committee had ordered Karnataka to release 32 tmcft of water, and within 10 days, the water level at the KRS dam had come down from 120 tmcft to 112 tmcft, shattering the hopes of local farmers.

However, the timely rain will allow farmers in both KRS and Kabini dam areas to grow two crops. The KRS achukat requires an average of 6-7 tmcft of water per month to cater to standing crops.

The incessant rainfall in the Markonahalli catchment added more than 6,000 cusecs, while Bengaluru showers contributed 1,200 cusecs to Shimsha river, making up 3.5 tmcft of 12 tmcft of water discharged to Tamil Nadu.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Bommai offers help to flood-hit Kerala

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai on Wednesday spoke to his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan and offered assistance for rescue and relief operations in areas hit by heavy rain and landslides in the neighbouring state. "Spoke to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to heavy rains and landslides," the CM tweeted after speaking to Vijayan. Bommai said he asked Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar to be in touch with the Kerala Chief Secretary to provide all help

EXPRESS READ

4 militants eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir

Srinagar: Security forces on Wednesday eliminated four militants, including two commanders of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), who were involved in the killing of migrant labourers in Jammu and Kashmir, the police said | P10

India outplay Australia in final warm-up

Dubai: India fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with an eight-wicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game on Wednesday. India chased down Australia's 152/5 in 17.5 overs, with Rohit Sharma leading from the front | P13

DIFFICULT LIFE

WHEN DEVELOPMENT GIVES THESE TRIBAL HAMLETS A MISS

B THIPPERUDRAPPA @Chikkamagaluru

THE bright rays of development are yet to shine on two tiny hamlets of Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district. The Gowdlu tribals, who inhabit these settlements, don't have access to roads, bridges, hospitals or schools and depend on a town that is 20km away for all their basic needs.

The two hamlets, Karle and Kalkodu Eechaluhole, fall under Samse Gram Panchayat. While Eechaluhole has just five families, Karle has 20. The two settlements, on the fringes of Kudremukh National Park, receive heavy rainfall during monsoon, which only aggravates their problems.

It was just last week that two youngsters from Karle had to reach their 70-year-old grandmother, who had fallen sick, to the nearest town, Kalasa. They made her sleep on a blanket, tied its ends to a bamboo stick and carried the makeshift stretcher on their shoulders for the entire 20 km to reach Kalasa. They walked through a narrow, kuccha path and over a temporary bridge, constructed from bamboo, to get her medical help.

The earlier bridge, which too was temporary but was constructed better, was washed away in the deluge of 2019. With no authorities coming to their help, the tribals have constructed the bridge on their own now.

People from Eechaluhole too have to cross a tributary of the Bhadra river to reach Kalasa town. Since that bridge got washed away, they too have built a wooden foot bridge.

KP Naveen of Karle village said that it was not just the 75-year-old, but every ailing and elderly person has to be carried on shoulders to Kalasa. "We badly need road connectivity. Our situation is nightmarish during the rainy season," he added.

Another resident, Prema, told *The New Indian Express* that they submitted memorandums on October 7 and 12 to Mudigere MLA MP Kumaraswamy, Lok Sabha member Shobha Karandlaje and Deputy Commissioner KN Ramesh, detailing their horrible living conditions. They also demanded a proper road and a permanent bridge.

CONTINUED ON: P7

A sick woman of Karle village being carried on a makeshift stretcher last week | EXPRESS

Since the hamlets fall in the national park region, the forest department has to give clearance for any development work, including laying of roads, in the area

— Dr HL Nagaraj, Assistant Commissioner

Sanjjanaa accuses friend of cheating her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KANNADA film actor Sanjjanaa Galrani, accused in the 2020 Sandalwood drug case, has filed a complaint against her 'best friend' and a co-accused Rahul Tonse and two others of cheating her of returns from her investments in his casino business in Colombo and Goa.

Sanjjanaa and Tonse were among those arrested by the city police in the drug case in September last year. She was later released on bail.

CONTINUED ON: P5